

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA  
Monday, April 28, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Following due call and notice thereof, Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room, City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Mayor Bob Burns Council Members: DeWayne Schroeder, and Randi Vick, Bob Lemke and Paul Fisch. City Staff Present: City Clerk/Administrator: Ted Schoonover, Administrative Coordinator Mike Gerardy, Ambulance Director Mike Tornstrom, EMT's Don Hager and Mary Betz. Guests present: County Assessor Tom Dybing, property appraiser Cindy Cresswell, Dennis Gavin, Judith Stone, and Caledonia Argus reporter Dianna Hummell.

AGENDA: Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Vick to approve the agenda as amended. All present voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Vick to approve the consent agenda with corrections to the April 16, 2014 minutes, which consisted of the regular meeting minutes from April 14, 2014 and special meeting April 16, 2014 Mayor Burns, Members Lemke, Schroeder and Vick voted in favor. Member Fisch abstained and the motion was declared carried.

VISITORS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

2015 Board of Appeals and Equalization Hearing was held at 6:04 p.m. County Assessor Tom Dybing and appraiser Cindy Cresswell were present to discuss any property values or real estate taxation issues. There were no public comments. Dybing briefly went through the process of an appeal and the 2015 property taxes and how they are determined. He also walked the City Council through the City's levy and how it effects property taxes. The hearing was closed at 6:37 p.m. and the regular meeting was reconvened.

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR: At 6:38 the Mayor closed the regular meeting and conducted a public hearing regarding a zoning variance request from Dennis Gavin, Caledonia Haulers for the maintenance facility on Hokah Street. He is planning on removing a portion of the existing building and adding an additional 90' x 115' building to the existing facility to enable more fleet maintenance to be completed on sight. He is asking for 4 variances; 30' setback from the East property line, 55' setback from the NE line, 80' setback from the North line and a 4' setback from the NW line. Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Lemke to approve the variances as requested and presented, with the reason being that the property owner owns all the properties effected by the variances and it is located on a stubbed street and this in no fashion shows favoritism as the council would give any resident the same consideration if in the same situation. All members present voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

Gerardy then briefed the council on the County 5/Winnebago project and that he, Administrator Schoonover, Electrician Blocker, WWTP operators Klug and Nelson all attended the pre-construction meeting on April 24, 2014, and the project is scheduled to begin on May 27, 2014. He also noted that no change order is needed for the proposed sidewalk as the county already changed the plans to reflect the city's plans.

Gerardy then presented the council with an informational zoning application for Jerry Steele at 712 Maralouis Ct. He is planning on opening an automobile oil change, lubrication and detail shop at that location. It is allowed in the business district and no action is needed by the council.

Sprague woods were briefly discussed and that once the arborist can come in and mark some trees a plan of action will be developed to clear some debris and undergrowth from the woods. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

Administrator Schoonover presented the council with the newly passed laws on minimum wages for the State of Minnesota, it would appear that this will only effect the starting wages at the liquor store and that the newly hired employees will already be above this level by the time this is implemented.

Judith Stone was present to ask the council to allow her to block off her street for a block party on May 25, 2014, from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. She is planning on a block party with a fully cooked hog and games. She would like to block off the street from Sunset Alley to Lincoln St if needed. Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Lemke to approve the request as presented. All members present voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

Mike Tornstrom was present and asked that 9 first responders be hired, 7 are recent applicants and 2 are returning applicants that all have shown a great interest and have been interviewed. They are as follows: Karen Schiltz, Jeremy Myhre, Jacob Theobald, Kally Konkel, Kendra Heim, Zachary McGraw, Brandon Tornstrom, Mike Meiners and Randall Ashbacher. Those that are minors will be classified as cadets until they reach age 18 the others will be first responders. Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Vick to approve the hiring of all 9 applicants as presented. All members present voted in favor and the motion was declared carried.

The Ambulance Directors position was discussed. The employee committee met with two applicants and recommended that the council hire both. One as a director and the other as an assistant. Don Hager submitted a request for a salary of \$1,500.00 a month, this would not include call time but he would receive pay for actual runs just like the previous director, he would also have the same duties and requirements of the outgoing director. Mary Betz was interested in the assistant position and would need \$16.00 an hour to enable her to accept the position. The Mayor was concerned that the wage is higher than some others within the city that are full time and doing similar duties. Betz felt that if you calculated in the benefits the other employees receive, her wage was appropriate. Again the Mayor questioned about going from paying one director \$12,000 annually to now proposing a jump to \$30,000 for a director and an assistant. The budget can absorb the increase but we may have to delay some capitol project outlays in the future and see where it comes out. Member Fisch stated that we can give it 6-9 months and see how it is working out and adjust from there. Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Vick to Hire Don Hager as Director for \$1,500.00 a month and Mary Betz as his assistant at \$16.00 an hour for up to 15 hours a week. Discussion was continued on the development of a job description for the assistant's position, Tornstrom stated he already has one completed. Roll call of members. Yes: Mayor Burns, Members Schroeder, Fisch, Vick, Lemke. No: none. Motion was declared carried.

Administrator Schoonover presented the council with a request form Liquor Store Manager Patty Gavin who showed interest in attending the annual MMBA conference in Alexandria, MN on May 18-20, 2014. Motion by Member Vick, second by Member Schroeder to attend the conference. Roll call of votes. Yes: Members Vick, Schroeder, Fisch, Lemke. No: Mayor Burns. Motion was declared carried.

Schoonover brought up the issue at the old county jail concerning a busted water line in the facility. Water operator Klug stated he found that his records show that the break used 396,000 gallons of water and approximately half of that flowed into the sewer system and that we should attempt to recoup those funds from the county. Motion by Mayor Burns, second by Member Lemke to bill the county for water in the amount of 396,000 gallons and 198,000 gallons of sewer use. All members present voted in favor and motion was declared carried.

The employee overtime reports were reviewed and accepted.

At 8:21 p.m. the Mayor Burns then closed the regular meeting pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 13D.03 for labor negotiations. At 8:30 p.m. the regular meeting was reconvened.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 12, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Council, A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Burns, second by Member Schroeder. All voted in favor and the motion was declared carried to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

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Robert Burns

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Ted A. Schoonover  
Clerk-Administrator